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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Office of the Director

17 April 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Security Agency

SUBJECT: COINS Experiment

- REFERENCES:
- (a) NSA Memorandum, [REDACTED] 3 April 1969, COINS Experiment 25X1
 - (b) Memorandum, IHC-D-113/4.15, 3 December 1968, COINS Experiment and Master Plan
 - (c) NSA Memorandum [REDACTED] 5 December 1968, COINS Master Plan 25X1
 - (d) DCI Memorandum, 31 May 1968, Management of the COINS Experiment

1. The Director has asked me to reply to your memorandum of 3 April 1969, Reference (a). I will also address other related subjects.

2. The reasons for the additional time necessary for the COINS Experiment are understood. During the testing of such a complex system, deficiencies must be anticipated. It is requested, however, that every effort be made to carry out the test and analysis phase of the Experiment as expeditiously as possible. Your consideration of a COINS follow-on system should be secondary to the completion of the experimental phase.

3. During this period of system modification and operational test, it is desirable to continue the type of network tests which have uncovered system shortcomings contributing to the delay. Test and analysis data should be collected during this period in preparation for the formal test and analysis phase. During this period also it is important to inform, indoctrinate, train, and assist the eventual user/analyst since the evaluation of the success of COINS will be influenced largely by the degree to which the analyst uses the system and finds it satisfactory.

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4. The Intelligence Information Handling Committee (IHC) was tasked in Reference (b) to produce a plan and schedule for the evaluation of COINS. The lack of an approved set of objectives for the COINS Experiment is hampering the development of such a plan. In your memorandum of 5 December 1968, Reference (c), you noted efforts were under way to resolve differences pertaining to COINS objectives. The success you have experienced in this regard is of interest since the set of objectives set forth in the COINS Master Plan appear dependent to some extent on projects and activities beyond the period of the COINS Experiment. The objectives should be realizable, demonstrable, and measurable within the revised time frame of the present Experiment. It is requested that the total set of objectives be forwarded to the DCI for his approval as soon as feasible.

5. Your request for the members of the community to identify additional files for COINS has been brought to the attention of the IHC. During the Experiment changes to COINS files may be made in accordance with the Reference (d). The problem of files for a follow-on system is under continuing consideration in the IHC.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:



AD/DCI/NIFE

cc: IHC Members

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